

Amendments to the Claims:

Claim 1. (Original): A wound dressing material comprising a polymeric substrate, a silver salt, and a dyestuff to photostabilize the silver salt.

Claim 2. (Currently Amended): A wound dressing material according to claim 1, wherein the substrate comprises a solid bioabsorbable material, ~~preferably~~ selected from the group consisting of collagens, oxidized celluloses, chitosans, galactomannans, glycosaminoglycans, and mixtures thereto.

Claim 3. (Original): A wound dressing material according to claim 2, wherein the substrate comprises a solid bioabsorbable material selected from the group consisting of collagens, oxidized celluloses, chitosans, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 4. (Original): A wound dressing material according to claim 1, wherein the substrate is selected from the group consisting of celluloses, alginates, polyacrylates, polyurethanes, polyamides, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 5. (Currently Amended): A wound dressing material according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein the wound dressing material is in the form of a continuous solid sheet, an apertured solid sheet, a web, a woven fabric, a knitted fabric, a nonwoven fabric, a freeze-dried sponge or a solvent-dried sponge.

Claim 6. (Currently Amended): A wound dressing material according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 3, wherein the polymeric substrate comprises an anionic polymer, and said silver salt comprises a salt of Ag⁺ with the anionic polymer.

Claim 7. (Currently Amended): A wound dressing material according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 6, wherein the composition comprises from about 0.01wt.% to about 5wt.% of silver, based on the dry weight of the composition.

Claim 8. (Currently Amended): A wound dressing material according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 6, wherein the dyestuff comprises an antioxidant dyestuff, for example selected from the group consisting of aniline dyes, acridine dyes, thionine dyes, bis-naphthalene dyes, thiazine dyes, azo dyes, anthraquinones, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 9. (Original): A wound dressing material according to claim 8, wherein the antioxidant dyestuff is selected from the group consisting of gentian violet, aniline blue, methylene blue, crystal violet, acriflavine, 9-aminoacridine, acridine yellow, acridine orange, proflavin, quinacrine, brilliant green, trypan blue, trypan red, malachite green, azacrine, methyl violet, methyl orange, methyl yellow, ethyl violet, acid orange, acid yellow, acid blue, acid red, thioflavin, alphasaurine, indigo blue, methylene green, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 10. (Currently Amended): A wound dressing material according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 8, wherein the dyestuff is present in an amount of from about 0.2 to about 2wt.% based on the dry weight of the material.

Claim 11. (Currently Amended): A wound dressing material according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 6, wherein the polymeric substrate consists essentially of a mixture of an oxidized cellulose with a collagen and/or a chitosan.

Claim 12. (Currently Amended): A wound dressing material according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 11, wherein the material is sterile and packaged in a microorganism-impermeable container.

Claim 13. (Currently Amended): A wound dressing material according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 6, wherein the material has a free radical activity in the diphenylpicrylhydrazyl (DPPH) test for antioxidant activity as herein defined of at least about 15%.

Claim 14. (Canceled)

Claim 15. (Canceled)

Claim 16. (Canceled)

Claim 17. (Canceled)

Claim 18. (Canceled)

Claim 19. (Canceled)